

immediate relative within the meaning of section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act for purposes of approval of a relative visa petition filed under section 204 of such Act by Mercedes Del Carmen Quiroz Martinez Cruz and the filing of an application for an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Mercedes Del Carmen Quiroz Martinez Cruz enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the petition and the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status are filed by Mercedes Del Carmen Quiroz Martinez Cruz with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Mercedes Del Carmen Quiroz Martinez Cruz, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, for the following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas available under section 201(c)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes on both sides.

DO DEMOCRATS HAVE AGENDA?

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend I had the great pleasure of spending time with some of my constituents to let them know about our future agenda in the Republican Party. We discussed future surpluses in our Federal budget, we discussed the recently passed tax cuts targeting working, middle-class income American families. We discussed the benefits of the recently passed Patient Protection Act that makes health care more accessible, accountable and affordable.

But then I got back to Washington and read in yesterday's Roll Call newspaper that Democrats do not even have an agenda. As a matter of fact, the argument cited a Democratic source who said that their party, quote, "needs something to campaign on, and if the President doesn't use his veto pen, we (the Democrats) are in trouble."

Actually maybe I am reading this wrong. Perhaps the Democrats do have an agenda, an agenda to shut down the government. While this Republican-led

Congress has delivered on its promises to balance the budget, provide meaningful tax cuts and to save Social Security, my liberal colleagues have no better agenda than to shut the government down.

PRESIDENT'S BEHAVIOR DOES NOT CONSTITUTE IMPEACHABLE OFFENSE

(Mr. CLEMENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I do not claim to be a great constitutional scholar, but I have read the Constitution and considered carefully what scholars have written about the document, about what its framers had in mind, about our common law tradition and about the history of impeachment of government officials.

A careful reading of constitutional history leads one to conclude the information we have before the Congress concerning the behavior of the President does not constitute a constitutionally impeachable offense. Were certain of the President's actions shocking? Yes, clearly. Distasteful? Yes, clearly. Shameful? Yes. Morally reprehensible? Yes. Deserving of punishment and censure? Clearly, yes.

But do the President's actions meet the test for impeachment envisioned by the Founding Fathers? Just as clearly the answer must be a resounding no. Punish the President, not impeach; punish the President, not the American people.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will be reminded that he is not to make personal references to the President.

THE ABORTION/BREAST CANCER LINK

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, this month is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I am concerned that the National Cancer Institute, our Federal agency charged with leading the war on cancer, refuses to tell American women the truth about one of the most avoidable risk factors for breast cancer; that is, abortion.

Eleven out of twelve studies, most done by or funded by the National Cancer Institute, show higher breast cancer incidence among American women who have had an abortion. Meanwhile, the NCI claims on its website there is no convincing evidence of the abortion/breast cancer link.

An exhaustive review of the evidence published 2 years ago by Penn State

College of Medicine estimated that almost 5,000 American women get breast cancer every year because they chose to have an abortion; 5,000.

Mr. Speaker, covering up the truth about possible cancer risk is a serious matter and must be addressed. I urge the House to hold hearings on this matter of importance to all women.

GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN WASHINGTON

(Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I want to stand today and talk about something good. In the midst of all the scandals that are going on, there are good things happening. Around the Nation people need to know about that, as we need to remind ourselves in this body.

The good thing is we are returning power to the American people. We just passed a bill that returned money to the classrooms. Instead of billions of dollars in bureaucracies, it just says it is time to go back and give the money to the teachers and the families.

Today we are going to pass a bill that returns billions of dollars to the communities to start housing for those that need housing, to have housing for the elderly and those beginning young families that are trying to build their own homes.

Yes, there are good things happening here in Washington, D.C., and it is not all scandal. We need to call the Senate and ask them individually to pass Dollars to the Classroom. Get the dollars out of the bureaucracy and back in the classroom. Get the dollars out of the bureaucracy and back into housing for our citizens. Good things are happening.

CUBA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, for 15 months Cuban dissidents Vladimir Roca, Martha Beatriz Roque, Felix Bonne and Rene Gomez Manzano have been imprisoned by the Castro dictatorship for publishing a document critical of Cuba's Communist totalitarian system. Last week they were charged with a trumped-up crime of sedition, causing the outrage of international human rights organizations.

This oppression of the voices for freedom in Cuba is routine practice by the Castro dictatorship. Any individual who attempts to exercise his or her right to free speech to help create a democratic opening on the island is harassed, arrested and ultimately imprisoned.

This is more evidence that Castro will not change his totalitarian politics. Yet the Clinton administration insists on appeasing the Castro dictatorship by failing to implement the

Helms-Burton law and waiving important parts of this legislation. It is time for the White House to wake up and realize that flirting with Castro will not help bring freedom to Cuba's oppressed people.

FISCAL YEAR 1999 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS

(Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly encourage the President to sign the 1999 agriculture appropriations bill. This bill contains much needed assistance for farmers and ranchers who are facing severe drought, farmers trying to hold together their operations in the face of several years of floods and disease, and farmers seeing their incomes decline significantly due to circumstances beyond their control.

I want to emphasize to my colleagues the assistance provided in this bill is not an implicit acknowledgment that agriculture policy needs to change direction. It is simply a recognition of the great need that we have in rural America.

The calls for additional funds for farmers are not about money, they are about policy. Some believe that they can seize on today's problems to change the course of the 1996 farm bill. My question is, why return to the old, failed farm policies of the past? Let us work through these international trade problems and continue to free agriculture to achieve great success in the 21st century. A good first step would be for the President to sign this bill. Do not play shut down the government with our farmers.

THE PRESIDENT IN HIS OWN WORDS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, guess who made the following quotes. In 1974: "If a President of the United States ever lied to the American people, he should resign."

Again in 1974: "I think it's plain that the President should resign and spare the country the agony of this impeachment and removal proceeding. I think the country would be spared a lot of agony and the government could worry about inflation and a lot of other problems if he'd resign."

Again in 1974: "I think the definition of impeachment should include any criminal act plus willful failure of the President to fulfill his duty to uphold and execute the laws of the United States. And another factor that I think constitutes an impeachable offense would be willful, reckless behavior in office."

In 1992: "I think trust and trustworthiness is an issue in this cam-

paign, and I think I've demonstrated it in my life."

Again in 1992: "I'm concerned by any action which sends a signal that if you work for the government, you're above the law, or not telling the truth to Congress, under oath, is somehow less serious than not telling the truth to some other body, under oath."

THE RULE OF LAW

(Mr. BARR of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on November 5, 1997, I introduced a resolution calling for an inquiry into the impeachment of President Clinton. Yesterday the House Judiciary Committee, 11 months to the day thereafter, voted to begin that inquiry, having before it at least 15 possible impeachable offenses. By the end of this week, the full House will have the opportunity to begin to find the truth by supporting this resolution.

If we accept that this inquiry is merely about sex and politics, we have already failed in our constitutional responsibility. This is about the rule of law. It is about accountability. It is about American citizens being free from fear that a high government official can tap them on the shoulder, escort them into a room, force them to succumb to the official's wishes and then obstruct that citizen's right to seek justice in our courts.

We must stand firm for the law, the Constitution, and the American people by supporting the inquiry of impeachment.

THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM TODAY

(Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want my colleagues to ask themselves a question. That question is, how long will it be before rogue nations are able to reach American soil with ballistic missiles? In 1995, some said 15 years. President Clinton used this information to justify his veto of the 1996 defense authorization bill which called for the deployment of a national missile defense system by the year 2003. Mr. Speaker, as our esteemed chairman of the House Committee on National Security, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE), said, the missile threat is not 15 years away, it is here now.

Recently we found out that North Korea fired its Taepo Dong 1 missile over the Sea of Japan. This missile has a maximum range of 1,250 miles. If anyone thinks that North Korea and other nations do not have the technological ability to hit American soil, we could all be dead wrong.

The U.S. must be able to defend itself from ballistic missile attacks. Efforts

not unlike those to make the U.S. first to the moon are needed to protect the American way of life. The President must agree to put a ballistic missile defense system in place today because the American citizens need to be secure that they are safe.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, there is an expression around this town that "people are entitled to their own opinions, but they are not entitled to their own facts." We have heard a lot in the last couple of weeks about this Congress and how little it has accomplished, but let us look at the facts.

For the first time since I was in high school, we have a balanced budget. We have more than that. We have a surplus this year. And for the first time since Tiger Woods was 5 years old, American families are actually going to get some tax relief. Let us talk about some of those tax cuts and what they mean to American families.

We are allowing for a \$500-per-child tax credit. We are making it easier for families to send their kids to school and to college, and we are also making it easier for them to save and invest for their future through capital gains tax relief and estate tax relief.

IRS reform. We are now saying that the IRS has to prove that you are guilty rather than the other way around.

In the area of agriculture, we have made significant progress in terms of helping our farmers get through these tough times.

In health care, we have made it much more portable so if you lose your job or change jobs, you can take your health insurance with you.

In the area of education, this Congress is saying that 90 percent of the funds ought to go to the classroom rather than be consumed by the bureaucracy.

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On all the areas people are entitled to their own opinions, but they are not entitled to their own facts.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE IT MAKES HAVING REPUBLICANS IN CHARGE OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, after 2 years of being stricken and terrified with a Democrat House of Representatives, a Democrat Senate and a Democrat White House, the American people in 1994 changed horses. We put Republicans in charge of the House and the Senate, and what a difference it made